

Joint School District No. 2, Meridian

STUDENT PERSONNEL

Series 500

Policy Title Homeless Students

Code No. 501.60

In compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title VII, Subtitle B, the No Child Left Behind Act, and Idaho Code 33-1404, the following procedures are established to promptly resolve disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless students.

1. A homeless student shall be immediately admitted to the school of choice of the parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth during the period of dispute resolution. Enrollment includes the eligibility for full participation in all school activities, subject to activity regulations.
2. A written explanation, in language the parent, guardian or unaccompanied student can understand, including a statement regarding the appeal process, shall be provided to a homeless student's parent or guardian if the school or district determines it will send the homeless student to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian, or denies the child homeless status.
3. The student's parent or guardian shall be referred to the school district's homeless liaison immediately. The liaison will advise the parent or guardian of the student's rights and assist in the dispute resolution process. The liaison must ensure that the dispute resolution process is followed for unaccompanied students.
4. If agreement cannot be reached between the parties, the district superintendent shall seek a review by a trained individual appointed by the State Department of Education. The reviewer shall, within seven (7) business days, review the matter to determine how the child's best interests, to the extent feasible, will be served.
5. The written finding, conclusions and recommendation of the reviewer shall be provided to the district board of trustees at their next scheduled meeting. The board, after review, may accept or reject the recommendation. The board's determination shall be final resolution of the dispute.

The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines "homeless children and youth" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes:

- a. *children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;*

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- b. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;*
- c. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and*
- d. migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (c).*

Date of Adoption:
08/12/03

Legal Reference: Code of Idaho
33-1404